

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9424

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S E C R E T SEOUL 5301

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, UN

SUBJECT: ROK FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVE: UN COMMAND

1. ROK PRESIDENTIAL FOREIGN POLICY ADVISORS CHOE KYU-HA AND HAM PYONG-CHUN USED LUNCHEON ENGAGEMENT WITH AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS AT LENGTH ROK CONCERNS OVER UNGA SITUATION, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS UNC.

2. BOTH THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORS PRESSED ON AMBASSADOR IMPORTANCE OF VIEWING UNGA TACTICS REGARDING UNC IN FLEXIBLE, PRAGMATIC MANNER. WHILE ROKG WANTS CONTINUATION OF UNC, CHOE SAID IT IS NECESSARY NOW TO BEGIN SERIOUS CONTINGENCY THINKING IN EVENT WE DO NOT HAVE THE VOTES TO HEAD OFF AN UNFAVORABLE UNGA RESOLUTION N "UN FORCES".

3. CHOE AND HAM EXPLAINED ROKG EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR UNGA SUPPORT OF UNC CONTINUATION. BY HIS RECENT CALCULATIONS, CHOE SAID WE PROBABLY NOW ONLY HAVE ABOUT A FOUR-VOTE MARGIN LEFT TO PLAY WITH. THIS IS MUCH TOO CLOSE. CONSEQUENTLY, ROKG HOPES THAT USG CAN, IN DEALINGS WITH PRC, WORK OUT SOME ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY AT MINIMUM ROK ADMISSION TO UN CAN BE ASSURED IN EXCHANGE FOR UNC TERMINATION.

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4. BOTH MEN EMPHASIZED THAT ROKG MUST HAVE

SOMETHING TO SHOW AFTER UNGA. IF NORTH KOREANS PARTICIPATE IN UNGA DEBATE, UNCURK IS TERMINATED, AND THERE IS UNFAVORABLE UNGA RESOLUTION ON UNC, CHOE SAID IT IS CLEAR THAT ROK WILL HAVE SUFFERED A COMPLETE DEFEAT DIPLOMATICALLY. TO AVOID THIS THEY REITERATED THAT ROKG IS WILLING TO TRADE UNC FOR UN ADMISSION. ALSO INDICATED THAT USG AND ROKG SHOULD AT SOME POINT CONSIDER OTHER POSSIBLE OPTIONS TO AVOID AN OPEN UNGA DEFEAT ON UNC QUESTION, IN EVENT WE DETERMINE "THE VOTES ARE NOT THERE".

5. IN RESPONSE TO CHOE'S AND HAM'S COMMENTS, AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WE BELIEVE IT IS PREMATURE TO ENGAGE IN SPECULATION ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN UNGA REGARDING UNC. SAID WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT AT THIS POINT IN TIME BEST COURSE FOR ALL OF US IS TO EMPHASIZE "SIMULTANEOUS ADMISSION" PROPOSAL OF ROKG AND IN THAT CONTEXT URGE OTHER NATIONS TO SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF UNC. AMBASSADOR SAID WE REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT OUR VALID ARGUMENTS REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF UNC IN TERMS OF STABILITY AND SECURITY ON PENINSULA, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, WILL PROVE EFFECTIVE.
HABIB

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